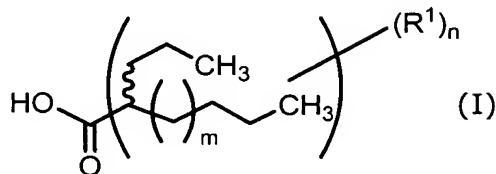


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Original)** A compound represented by formula (I):



wherein

R^1 represents optionally protected hydroxy or oxo,

~~~~ indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration,  $\beta$ -configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

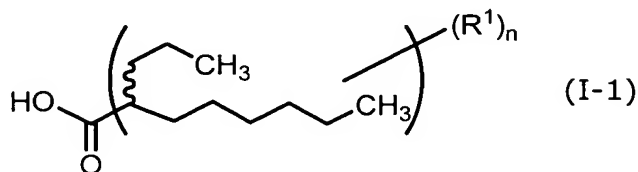
$n$  represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

$m$  represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 10; and

wherein two or more  $R^1$ 's are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

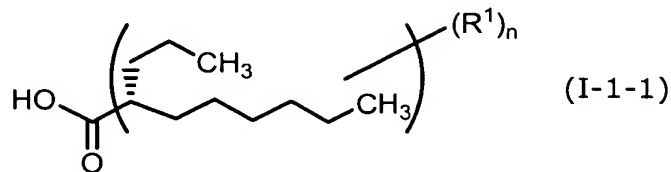
2. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (I-1):



wherein

all symbols have the same meanings as in claim 1.

3. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (I-1-1):

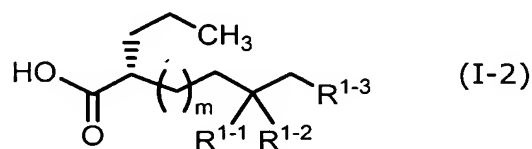


wherein

..... indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration, and

other symbols have the same meanings as in claim 1.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (I-2):



wherein

$R^{1-1}$  and  $R^{1-2}$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or optionally protected hydroxy, or

$R^{1-1}$  is taken together with  $R^{1-2}$  to represent oxo,

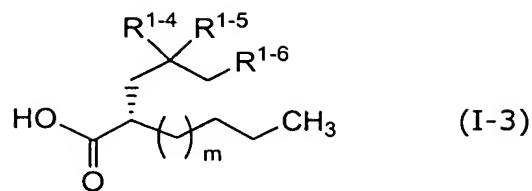
$R^{1-3}$  represents a hydrogen atom or optionally protected hydroxy, and

..... indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration, and

other symbols have the same meanings as in ~~claims-claim 1 and 3~~ claim 1 and 3; and

wherein, when  $R^{1-1}$  is taken together with  $R^{1-2}$  to represent oxo,  $R^{1-3}$  represents a hydrogen atom.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (I-3):




wherein

R<sup>1-4</sup> and R<sup>1-5</sup> are each independently a hydrogen atom or optionally protected hydroxy, or

R<sup>1-4</sup> is taken together with R<sup>1-5</sup> to represent oxo,

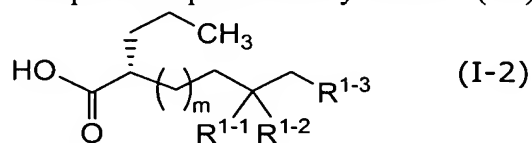
R<sup>1-6</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or optionally protected hydroxy, and

 indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration, and

other symbols have the same meanings as in ~~claims-claim 1 and 3~~ 1 and 3; and

wherein, when R<sup>1-4</sup> is taken together with R<sup>1-5</sup> to represent oxo, R<sup>1-6</sup> represents a hydrogen atom.

6. **(Original)** A compound represented by formula (I-2):




wherein

R<sup>1-1</sup> and R<sup>1-2</sup> are each independently a hydrogen atom or optionally protected hydroxy, or

R<sup>1-1</sup> is taken together with R<sup>1-2</sup> to represent oxo,

R<sup>1-3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or optionally protected hydroxy,

m represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 10, and

 indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration; and

wherein, when R<sup>1-1</sup> is taken together with R<sup>1-2</sup> to represent oxo, R<sup>1-3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

7. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 6, which is selected from the group consisting of (2R)-7-oxo-2-propyloctanoic acid, (2R,7R)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, (2R,7S)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid and (2R)-8-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid.

8. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 6, which is obtained by chemical synthesis.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises the compound represented by formula (I) depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises the compound represented by formula (I-2) depicted in claim 6, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A-The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, which is useful as a preventive and/ or therapeutic agent for a neurodegenerative disease;  
~~which comprises the compound represented by formula (I) depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.~~

12. **(Currently Amended)** A-The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, which is useful as a preventive and/ or therapeutic agent for a neurodegenerative disease;  
~~which comprises the compound represented by formula (I-2) depicted in claim 6, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.~~

13. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~preventive and/or therapeutic agent pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 11-~~or~~ 12, which is an improving agent of brain function, an improving agent of astrocyte function or an inhibiting agent of S100 $\beta$  expression.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~preventive and/or therapeutic agent pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 11-~~or~~ 12, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is one or more of selected from the group consisting of Parkinson's disease, Parkinson's syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, Down's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, familial amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, progressive supranuclear palsy, huntington's disease, spinocerebellar degeneration, dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy, olivopontocerebellar atrophy, corticobasal degeneration, dementia, Pick's disease, stroke, cerebrovascular disorder, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, acute parencephalitis, transverse myelitis, brain tumor, cerebral meningitis, cerebral abscess, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and AIDS dementia complex.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~preventive and/or therapeutic agent pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 14, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is cerebrovascular disorder, Parkinson's disease, Parkinson's syndrome, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Alzheimer's disease.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~preventive and/or therapeutic agent pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 15, wherein the cerebrovascular disorder is brain infarction or neuronal dysfunction by brain infarction.

17. **(Original)** A medicament, which comprises the compound represented by formula (I) depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof in combination with one or more of selected from the group consisting of an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor, a nicotinic receptor regulator, a  $\beta$ -secretase inhibitor, a gamma-secretase inhibitor, a  $\beta$ -amyloid protein aggregation inhibitor, a  $\beta$ -amyloid vaccine, a  $\beta$ -amyloid protease, a brain function activator, a cerebral blood flow and metabolism improver, a dopamine receptor agonist, monoamine oxidase inhibitor, an anticholinergic drug, a catechol-o-methyltransferase inhibitor, a curative medicine for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a neurotrophic factor, an apoptosis inhibitor, an antidepressant drug, an antianxiety drug, an anticonvulsant drug, an antihypertensive drug, a calcium receptor antagonist, a curative medicine for diabetes, a curative medicine for hyperlipemia, an aldose reductase inhibitor, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, a disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug, an anticytokine drug, a steroid, an antithrombotic drug, a factor Xa inhibitor, a factor VIIa inhibitor, an antioxidant and a glycerite.

18. **(Original)** The medicament according to claim 17, wherein the antithrombotic drug is tissue plasminogen activator.

19. **(Original)** A method for preventing and/or treating a neurodegenerative disease, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of the compound represented by formula (I) depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

Claim 20. **(Canceled)**